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## BOOK NOTES

*The Stability of Truth: A Discussion of Reality as Related to Thought and Action.* Being the third series of John Calvin McNair lectures before the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, January 7, 1910. By David Starr Jordan (Holt). "The purpose of this book is to set forth the doctrine that the final test of truth is found in trusting our lives to it. Truth is livable, while error is not, and the difference appears through the strain of the conduct of life." This central thesis is developed in six chapters, entitled: "Reality and Science," "Reality and the Conduct of Life," "Reality and Monism," "Reality and Illusion," "Reality and Education," "Reality and Tradition." The conclusion of the whole matter is summed up in a paragraph at the end: "The Truth we need is the truth we can use in our affairs. The life of action verifies and validates the world of realities. For 'we are men,' after all, says Fonsegrive, 'and not gods. We know the whole of nothing, but we know something. 'Tis but little no doubt, but this little suffices our purposes.'"

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*The Religion of Beauty in Women*, by Jefferson B. Fletcher, contains a series of essays "mixed in tone and treatment," that "glance at one interesting event in the literary history of woman—the rise and fall of a peculiar worship, or maybe idolatry, of her physical and spiritual beauty as a means of grace." "The creed took form in Italy. Plato's idealism is behind it; but it is the passion for beauty of the Renaissance itself, and no mere metaphysical system, that gives fervor to the mood, is the soul within the doctrine." The titles of the various essays are: "The Religion of Beauty in Women," "Dante and Beatrice: A Variety of Religious Experience," "The Oracle of Love in the Twelfth Chapter of *La Vita Nuova*," "The Philosophy of Love of Guido Cavalcanti," "Benevieni's Ode of Love and Spenser's *Four Hymnes*," "Did 'Astrophel' Love 'Stella?'" "Précieuses at the Court of Charles I."

Other books, of which some will receive fuller treatment later, have been received as follows: *Die Amerikanische Literatur*, by C. Alphonso Smith, being Vol. II of *Bibliothek der amerikanischen Kulturgeschichte* (Weidmannsche Buchhandlung, Berlin. Imported by Lemcke and Buechner, New York). Lectures delivered by Professor Smith as Roosevelt Professor in the University of Berlin. To be reviewed in the July issue by Professor Garland Greever, of the University of Arkansas. *Practical Training in English*, by H. A. Kellow, Head of the English Department in Allan Glen's School, Glasgow, Scotland (D. C. Heath). *Essentials of Poetry*, by W. A. Neilson (Houghton Mifflin); *Lectures on Poetry*, by J. W. Mackail, Professor of Poetry in the University of Oxford (Longmans). Both volumes are to be reviewed in the July issue by Professor Pelham Edgar of the University of Toronto. *Heralds of the Dawn: A Play*, by William Watson (John Lane). Reserved for fuller notice. *Woodland Idyls*, by W. S. Blatchley (Nature Publishing Company, Indianapolis). *The Singing Man*, by Josephine Preston Peabody (Houghton Mifflin Company). *The New Democracy*, by Walter E. Weyl; *The New History*, by James Harvey Robinson; *The Mediæval Mind*, by Henry Osborn Taylor; *Principles of Economics*, by F. W. Taussig (Fuller notice will be given to these volumes, all of which are published by the Macmillan Company). *The Greek Romances in Elizabethan Prose Fiction*, by Samuel Lee Wolff (Columbia University Press). *Human Confessions*, by Frank Crane (Forbes & Company, Chicago). *The Gates of Twilight*, by H. E. Harman (Stone & Barringer Company, Charlotte, N. C.), a volume of verse. *Harmen Pols*, by Maarten Maartens (John Lane). *Bridle Paths*, by Isaac Rusling Pennypacker (Christopher Sower Company, Philadelphia). New volumes of *The Tudor Shakespeare* that have been received are: *Coriolanus*, edited by Stuart P. Sherman, and *Troilus and Cressida*, edited by John S. P. Tatlock. *The Art of the Theatre*, by W. Gordon Craig (Browne's Bookstore, Chicago). To be reviewed in a subsequent issue by Professor J. W. Tupper, of Lafayette College, Pa.